

AXIAMD.005CP1



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Andrew H. Cragg
Appl. No. : 09/848,556
Filed : May 3, 2001
For : METHODS OF PERFORMING
PROCEDURES IN THE SPINE
Examiner : Pedro Philogene
Group Art Unit : 3732

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed May 27, 2004.

The Examiner has required restriction to one of four inventions:

- **Group I** (Claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11, 14-18, and 20-47), drawn to a method of treating the spine, classified in class 606, subclass 61;
- **Group II** (Claims 2, 12, and 48-60), drawn to a method of accessing the spine, classified in class 600, subclass 114;
- **Group III** (Claims 3 and 13), drawn to a therapeutic procedure, classified in class 604, subclass 3; and
- **Group IV** (Claims 10 and 19), drawn to a fixation device, classified in class 623, subclass 17.11.

REMARKS

Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, the claims of Group I (Claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11, 14-18, and 20-47), classified in class 606, subclass 61, for examination in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the nonelected claims in one or more continuing applications. Accordingly, examination on the merits of Claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11, 14-18, and 20-47 is respectfully requested.